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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: William John Curatolo, et al. :

SERIAL NO.: 09/380,885 :

FILED: September 7, 1999 :

FOR: Delayed-Release Dosage Forms of
Sertraline

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Examiner: S. Sharareh
Art Unit: 1615

I hereby certify that this correspondence
is being deposited with the United States
Postal Service as First Class Mail in an
envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner
for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

this 19th day of October 2000

By _Kirstine Birkbeck_

<div align="center">RESPONSE</div>

This is in response to the Office Action of April 19, 2000 in the above-identified application, the term for response having been extended for three (3) months by including the appropriate fee and petition herewith. Reconsideration of all rejections set forth in the Office Action is respectfully requested based on the amendments, comments and traversal which follow.

Please make the following changes to the application:

In the specification:

Page 7, line 33, change "Pfizer Docket No. 9337AJTJ, filed as a PCT application designating the United States" to - -co-pending US Application No. 09/380,897--;

Page 14, line 13, change "provisional application [Pfizer Docket 9838JTJ]" to - -US Application No. 09/380,900- -;

Page 24, line 18, change "provisional application [Pfizer Docket 9835JTJ], filed on even date herewith" to - -US Application No. 09/380,825- -;

<div align="center">REMARKS</div>

The above amendments are formal in nature. Pfizer docket numbers have been changed to corresponding co-pending US Application Numbers.

The Invention

Applicants have provided a delayed release oral dosage form of sertraline, i.e., the dosage form has a delay period engineered into it during which it releases 10% or less of its contained sertraline, and after which it effects immediate release of its remaining sertraline. The delay minimizes gastric exposure to sertraline and, accordingly, minimizes side effects